Severe Weather Awareness

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PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- This orientation briefing seeks to educate the Robins AFB populace on key terms associated with severe weather and recommend preparation actions ahead of the upcoming severe weather season.

- The 78 OSS Robins Weather Flight is the **PRIMARY** office of responsibility for all weather services at Robins AFB.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Weather Watch**: A special weather notice which serves to notify the public that conditions are FAVORABLE for the development of weather phenomena that could pose a hazard to life or property.

- **Weather Warning**: A special weather notice which serves to notify the public that a predefined weather event which poses a threat to life or property IS EXPECTED to occur.

- **Observed Weather Warning**: A special weather notice which serves to notify the public that a predefined weather event which poses a threat to life or property IS OCCURRING. At Robins AFB,

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Weather Advisory**: A special weather notice which alerts designated supported customers of a predefined weather event that may impact their operations or mission scope.

- **Observed Weather Advisory**: A special weather notice which states to designated supported customers the OCCURRENCE of a predefined weather event.

- At Robins AFB, observed weather advisory criteria include:
- Lighting within 10 miles
- Tropical cyclone within 400 miles
- Temperatures less than 20F

THUNDERSTORMS

- A thunderstorm is a form of weather characterized by the presence of lightning and its acoustic effect known as thunder.
- The meteorologically-assigned cloud type associated with the thunderstorm is the cumulonimbus cloud.
- Thunderstorms are usually accompanied by strong winds and brief periods of heavy rain. Additionally, at times, thunderstorms can also be accompanied by snow, sleet/ice pellets, hail, or no precipitation at all.
- **The average storm has a life expectancy of 15 to 30 minutes**.

LIGHTNING

- **Lightning** is an atmospheric discharge of electricity accompanied by thunder which typically occurs during thunderstorms.

- **LIGHTNING WATCH**: Issued when weather conditions are FAVORABLE for the development of lightning and thunderstorms in the area of interest.

- **LIGHTNING WARNING**: Issued when lightning and thunderstorms are occurring within five (5) miles of Robins AFB. This storm will either have been indicated on Doppler radar and/or the lightning has been detected by lightning detection equipment.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

- Short lived, hazardous weather events with the POTENTIAL for damaging winds, large hail, tornadoes, and flash flooding.

- **A severe thunderstorm is a one which has the POTENTIAL to produce tornadoes, large hail, or damaging winds greater than 58mph (50 knots).**

- **TORNADO WATCH**: Issued when weather conditions are FAVORABLE for the development of severe thunderstorms AND tornadoes in the area of interest.

- **TORNADO WARNING**: Issued when STRONG ROTATION is indicated by Doppler weather radar AND/OR a tornado has been SIGHTED.

- Note: A tornado MUST be reported and CERTIFIED by trained weather spotters. This training is available to civilian personnel by the National Weather Service. Contact your local emergency management agency for further information.

PREPARE!

- **Discuss the type of hazards that could affect you or your family.**
- **Know the vulnerabilities of your home and your immediate area to such elements as wind and flash floods.**
- **Locate a safe room or the safest area in your home. In some cases, the safest areas may not be your home but elsewhere in your community.**
- **Determine the location of appropriate evacuation routes or shelters if needed (i.e., residents of mobile homes or those residing in flood-prone areas).**
- **Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact. This ensures that all your family members have a single point of contact.**
- **Make a plan now for what to do with your pets in the event of severe weather.**

PREPARE!

- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage. Note: If you live in a flood-prone area, consider flood insurance as flooding is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies
- Create and maintain a disaster supply kit in your home.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio
- Consider taking classes in First Aid, CPR and emergency/disaster preparedness.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- Toiletries / Hygiene Items / Moisture Wipes
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio (News/weather and information source)
- Fully-charged cell phone with extra battery/charger
- Two telephone calling cards (emergency communications)
- Emergency Cash (include some small bills)
- Keys / Books, Games, and Toys for kids / Tool Set
- Vehicle Fuel Tanks Filled
- Pet Care Items

Key Contacts for Further Information and Assistance

Robins Weather Flight: (478) 926-3573

78 CEG Emergency Management Flight: (478) 327-9802

Houston County Emergency Management: (478) 542-2026

National Weather Service, Atlanta: (770) 486-1133

American Red Cross: (478) 923-6332

Please Direct Questions to:
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